

operationally connected to said testing devices, said signals including a signal proportional to the concentration of a first analyte in a body fluid, which first analyte exhibits a detectable concentration change at about the time of ovulation in said cycle, and a signal proportional to the concentration of a second analyte in a sample of body fluid, which second analyte exhibits a detectable concentration change after the commencement of said cycle but before the concentration change of said first analyte becomes detectable; and

b) an electronic processing means for interpreting said test signals [in response to test signals provided by said one or more testing devices used] obtained in as series of tests conducted following the commencement of said cycle, wherein said electronic processing means of said monitoring device is operationally connected to said reading means, said electronic processing means providing [provides] an indication that fertility is elevated when said concentration change of said second analyte has been detected, and an indication that fertility is maximum when said concentration change of said first analyte has been detected.

8. (Amended) A monitoring device according to claim 1 further comprising a receiving means [to receive a] for receiving said signals from said one or more testing devices [device, reading means associated with] said receiving means [to read] providing said test signals to said reading means, and a [electronic processing means to interpret said test signals, and] display means for providing [to provide] said indications of fertility.

10. (Amended) A monitoring device according to claim 1 including interface means [to communicate] for communicating with electronic data transmission means.

17. (Amended) A method for determining the time of maximum fertility in the mammalian ovulation cycle[,] comprising [wherein] obtaining samples of body fluid of a mammalian subject, conducting testing [is conducted] over a period of days in the current ovulation cycle on said samples of body fluid to detect a change in the concentration of analyte indicative of the actual event of ovulation and [wherein] conducting testing [is conducted] over a period of days in the current ovulation cycle on additional samples of body fluid to detect a change in the concentration of an analyte indicative of the imminent event of ovulation.

18. (Amended) A method for determining the time of maximum fertility in the human ovulation cycle[,] comprising [wherein] obtaining samples of body fluid of a human subject, conducting testing [is conducted] over a period of days in the current ovulation cycle on said samples of body fluid [obtained from an individual human subject] to detect an elevated concentration of luteinising hormone (LH) indicative of the event of ovulation[, wherein] and conducting additional testing [is conducted] over a period of days in the current ovulation cycle on additional samples of body fluid obtained from the individual human subject to detect an elevated concentration of an analyte selected from the group consisting of estradiol and metabolites thereof indicative of the imminent event of ovulation.

22. (Amended) A test kit for use in a method according to claim[s] 18 comprising:

a) at least one body fluid testing device that provides a readable signal proportional to the concentration of LH in a sample of said body fluid;

b) at least one body fluid testing device that provides a readable signal proportional to the concentration of said analyte selected from the group consisting of estradiol and metabolites thereof in a sample of said body fluid;

AS c) an electronic monitor having reading means [to read] for reading said readable signals and incorporating computer means [to interpret] for interpreting said readable signals and to determine therefrom in conjunction with data from previous body fluid tests whether the event of ovulation in the current cycle is about to occur or has just occurred.

FE 24. (Amended) A test kit according to claim 22, wherein the electronic monitor includes interface means [to communicate] for communicating with electronic data transmission means.

27. (Amended) A method of patient management comprising testing a patient by analysis of a body fluid of said patient, wherein said analysis is accomplished by:

(i) providing:

DA a) one or more testing devices that provide test signals, including a signal proportional to the concentration of a first analyte in a body fluid, which first analyte exhibits a detectable concentration change at about the time of ovulation in said cycle, and a signal proportional to the concentration of a second analyte in a sample of body fluid, which second analyte exhibits a detectable concentration change after the commencement of said cycle but before the concentration change of said first analyte becomes detectable;

b) a monitoring device comprising receiving means [to receive] for receiving one of said one or more testing devices, reading means associated with said receiving means [to

read] for reading said test signals, electronic processing means [to interpret] for interpreting said test signals, and interface means [to communicate] for communicating with electronic data transmission means; and

c) electronic data transmission means for transmitting electronic data;

(ii) downloading electronic data from said monitoring device onto said electronic data transmission means;

(iii) inputting said downloaded electronic data into said computer means, from which said computer means a health professional thereby derives patient-related information.

36. (Amended) A method according to claim 27, wherein said monitoring device includes display means for providing [to provide] an indication of fertility, said display means including a visual indication in the form of a bar or similar symbol the height or length of which is altered in either a continuous or step-wise manner as the likelihood of conception increases, attaining a maximum height or length to indicate the most appropriate time in the cycle to attempt conception.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above referenced application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 and 17-50 are currently pending in the present application. Claim 17 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 8, 10, 17, 18, 22, 24, 27 and 36 have been amended to better define the present invention. The amendments to the claims are fully supported by the specification and claims as originally filed.